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Calling all UM students: Fill out, return census forms

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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

April 5, 2000

Contact: Krista Kanenwisher at (406) 829-8721, ext. 102.

CALLING ALL UM STUDENTS: FILL OUT, RETURN CENSUS FORMS

MISSOULA --

To make sure all University of Montana students are counted in the 2000 census, the local census bureau is mounting an all-out effort to reach UM dormitory residents. Campus hand-delivery of envelopes containing census forms began Tuesday, April 4.

It may be news to many students that for purposes of the census, college students are considered residents of the city where they attend school, not of their hometowns. A large portion of college students was missed in the 1990 census because many assumed their hometown census included them.

Krista Kanenwisher at the local census office urges students to fill out the forms and return them immediately. The deadline and drop-off location for their return is on the front of each envelope.

"This is really important," Kanenwisher said. "We hope that the students and the University will appreciate the financial benefits of making sure every student is counted." Federal grants and other federal aid programs are based on population, so an undercount can cost the University dearly in federal dollars, she said.

"Every state receives between \$650 and \$2,500 per person," she said. "The statistics remain for a decade. Even at the minimum, \$650, multiplied by 10 years that's \$6,500 per person. So it gets expensive really fast to have an undercount."

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Off-campus students have received their forms by mail. A nonresponse follow-up operation will begin April 27 and continue for several weeks. Students who don't return their questionnaire and who leave town are at risk for being left out.

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